

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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E.O. 11652: /A

TAGS: TPHY, OSCI, EG

SUBJECT: SFC SCIENCE PROGRAM - TRAVEL OF EGYPTIAN
SCIENTISTS TO U.S.

REF: A. STATE 186734 B. CAIRO 6333

1. REF A CONVEYED HEW POSITION ON DOLLAR FUNDS FOR U.S.
TRAVEL OF DR. HASHIM. PARA 3 REF B REQUESTED SCI VIEW
ON QUESTION AS PERTAINS OTHER SFCP AGENCIES AND SUGGESTED
STANDARD POLICY GUIDELINES.

2. OTHER U.S. SCIENCE AGENCIES(WITH SOME NSF EXCEPTION)
ALSO FACE SIMILAR PROBLEM AS HEW WHEN IT COMES TO DOLLAR
SUPPORT FOR U.S. TRAVEL OF EGYPTIAN SCIENTISTS. EMBASSY
MAY RECALL SIMILAR SITUATION IN CONNECTION WITH NBS
INVITEES COVERED IN STATE 74826 OF 4/20/73 AND RELATED
MESSAGES. SFCP PROJECTS DO NOT HAVE DOLLAR COMPONENT AND
AGENCIES DO NOT HAVE AUTHORITY TO CONVERT EGYPTIAN POUNDS
(OR OTHER SPECIAL FOREIGN CURRENCIES) INTO DOLLARS.
UNLESS GOE WILLING TO CONVERT FUNDS, DOLLAR COSTS FOR
EGYPTIAN SCIENTISTS VISITING U.S. MUST BE FROM SOME
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OTHER SOURCE, SUCH AS AGENCIES' DOMESTIC PROGRAM B DGETS.

IN VIEW OF TIGHT DOLLAR BUDGETS AND ADMINISTRATI E

3. WE DO NOT FEEL THERE SHOULD BE RELUCTANCE TO PROPOSE,
WHEN NECESSARY, GOE CONVERSION OF FUNDS TO DOLLARS FOR

SUPPORT OF PER DIEM IN U.S. FOR ITS SCIENTISTS. EXCEPT
AS A HIGHLY DESIRABLE SPIN-OFF, THE SFC SCIENCE PROGRAM
OF U.S. AGENCIES IS NOT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. IT IS
GEARED TO MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL SCIENTIFIC INTERESTS. WE
BELIEVE SOME SELECTIVE TRAVEL BY EGYPTIAN SCIENTISTS TO
THE U.S. IS IN THEIR INTERESTS AND IN OURS, AND THE GOE
SHOULD BE WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE IN THIS WAY WHEN SO
INDICATED OR NECESSARY.

4. IN CONTEXT OF BALANCE OF PAYMENT FACTOR FOR GOE, WE
AWARE ALSO THAT INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL PAID FOR WITH U.S.-
OWNED EGYPTIAN POUNDS NORMALLY BECOMES A DRAIN ON
EGYPT'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES SINCE THE CARRIERS
REQUEST CONVERSION OF THE LOCAL CURRENCY TO DOLLARS OR
OTHER HARD CURRENCIES. AS THE RESEARCH PROGRAM GROWS,
UNDOUBTEDLY THE GOE WILL WATCH THIS ASPECT MORE AND MORE
CLOSELY AND RELATE IT TO REQUEST FOR DOLLAR SUPPORT OF
EGYPTIAN SCIENTISTS.

5. NEVERTHELESS AS WITH OTHER SFCP COUNTRIES, WE SEE FOR
THE PRESENT NO ALTERNATIVE TO TAILOR-MADE, CASE-BY-CASE
DETERMINATION BY U.S. AGENCIES AND GOE AS TO ALLOWABILITY
AND SOURCE OF U.S. PER DIEM OR OTHER DOLLAR COSTS. WE
WILL EMPHASIZE TO U.S. AGENCIES IMPORTANCE IN ISSUING
INVITATIONS TO EGYPTIAN SCIENTISTS FOR TRAVEL TO U.S. OF
CLEAR AND UNAMBIGUOUS TERMS AND PROVISIONS(OR LACK OF) FOR
PER DIEM AND OTHER INTERNAL DOLLAR SUPPORT.

6. ANY ADDITIONAL EMBASSY COMMENT INVITED. INGERSOLL

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